Pays Tribute To Meeks' Store

from "General Store— and Much, Much More" (Iron Worker, Summer 1964) by Lucille McWane Watson

Typical of the Virginia general store of ante-bellum days was one that operated at Old Appomattox Court House before the War between the States and which has recently been restored by the National Park Service. Built in 1850, at what was then known as Clover Hill, the frame clapboard structure fortunately survived the ravages of the postwar years that took such heavy toll of other buildings of Old Appomattox Village, and, still intact upon its original site, stands today once more stocked with goods of its time.

Designated as the Plunkett - Meeks Store, from the names of two early proprietors, it looks much as it did on that memorable Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, when History marked the place as one never to be forgotten in the annals of the Republic.

Upon the aged slope-front desk, salvaged from the hayloft of a Buford County barn, the leather-bound ledger rests today, its entries giving proof of the authenticity of the restored store.

Frequent mention of thread by the "skein", "ball" and "bunch" as well as by spool, indicates that the ladies of Appomattox knew how to knit, crochet and embroider as the fashions of the day dictated.

The powder and shot sold by the pound reveal the good hunting that no doubt provided game in abundance. That there was also good food on Appomattox tables is indicated by orders of coffee; tea, loaf sugar, white sugar, brown sugar, pulverized sugar, rice, molasses, ginger, nutmeg, and many spices and flavoring extracts.

Truly "general" was the merchandise offered at Clover Hill's store of the 1850's, and remarkably accurate are the items now shown on its shelves.

An item may be cited to illustrate how well the ledger bears out Appomattox traditions. On "December 17, ,855" one "Robert M. Sweeney" made the purchase of "2 violin strings". To the uninformed this naturally has no special significance. To county historians, a kinsman of Joe Sweeney, the famous minstrel man of Appomattox, would have made just such a buy about then if true to character he was to be the fiddler at a coming Christmas dance. Upon such little things an authentic restoration rests.

The country store as an institution will not be forgotten, and the Plunkett-Meeks General Store at historic Appomattox Village will help to keep its memory alive.

Gesundheit!

Watch that sneeze, Buster! It's anything but a blessing, old folklore notwithstanding.

As a matter of fact, sneezes are real, live public enemies. And so are coughs. We can't send out a dragnet, corner them with drawn guns, and put them on trail. But we can incarcerate them—with tissues, that is.

Cover your coughs and sneezes! Don't let them public enemies loose to spread their germs to others.

And germs there are, floating free in the air, every time you cough or sneeze. They are tiny but they pack a might wallop in sickness and disease when they are inhaled by others.

So don't let a single droplet of spray — a single germ or virus — escape into the air.

What's the answer? Just be quick on the draw, when you reach for the tissues.

And if you have a cold, why don't you stay home for a few days? It won't hurt you — might even make you feel better. And it certainly will be better for others.

The same advice goes for the small fry at school. No teacher is going to welcome Johnny with a dripping nose and a cough like a steam engine.

If the cold hangs on, see your doctor. It might be just a cold, but there's always the possibility it could be something worse. So take care — says your Christmas Seal Organization — of yourself and others.

Stonewall

Hats off to Mr. Osborne Davidson, who celebrated his 82nd birthday Sunday.

Mr. Tommie Davidson attended the picnic for the deaf in Lynchburg Saturday evening and had a delightful time.

Mrs. Eunice Howerton and her son and wife visited Mr. Jessie Davidson and brother Tommie and Mrs. Agnes Carson last Thursday. They were from Florence, N.C.

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Carson had his sister, Mrs. Va. Kampf, of Charleston, S.C., for the week end and Sunday their daughters, Mrs. Kemp Smith and family and Mrs. Sonny Showalter and family, of Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Wheeler visited J. F. Alvis family, Betty Kidd and R. H. Alvis family in Lynchburg Saturday afternoon.

John Alvis III and Bill Stratton left for school last week; also Miss Sara Stanford. We will miss them from church each Sunday.

Mrs. I. B. Wheeler spent Tuesday with her daughter, Mrs. H. B. Jones and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wheeler, Louise, David and Tommie visited Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Wheeler Sunday also Mrs. Nell Haines, of New York, Mrs. Nett Haines left Monday for her home in Flushing, N. Y. after spending two weeks with her sister, Mrs. Hop Elliott.

Mrs. Marshall Stratton is much better which we are glad to report.

Mrs. Helen Stratton visited her brother, Mr. Hubert Scruggs, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith and family of Midlothian, spent Thursday night with her mother, Mrs. sister, Mrs. Martin Krause.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davidson and family visited her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bondurant, Sunday.

Airman Chambers Joins SAC Unit

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Airman Eugene Chambers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer L. Chambers, of Pamplin, has completed Air Force basic military training at Lackland AFB, Tex.

Airman Chambers is being assigned to a Strategic Air Command (SAC) unit at Forbes AFB, Kan., for training and duty as an air policeman. His unit supports the SAC mission of keeping the nation's intercontinental missiles and jet bombers on constant alert.

The airman is a 1964 graduate of Carver-Price High School, Appomattox.

Southside Offers Job Training

The Virginia Employment Commission, Farmville, Virginia announces that several opportunities are still available for training of youth in the Southside Vocational School, Crewe, Va.

Applicants may also apply to the Virginia State Employment Commission, Farmville, Virginia for information and application for these classes.

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Clergymen Seminar

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The speaker, Rev. Paul E. Trion, professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary, said that "mourning is a therapeutic experience which heals the life broken and disorganized by the death of a loved one." He said that the primary step in the therapy of mourning "involved acceptance of the fact of death as real."

Local clergymen attending were Rev. Marvin Jacobs, Thomas A. Waddill, M. G. Stimpson, Keith Whitehead, and Winfred H. Elder.

New Items For Old Meeks Store

A brass flour scoop and an old starch box are among the latest additions to Meeks Store at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

The starch box is made of wood with a sliding top. Testimonials on the multi-colored paper cover date back into the 1840's and quote papers and magazines of the time extolling the excellence of Durpee's Salem Gloss Starch.

Both items were contributed by Miss Elizabeth Ambro, of Richmond, an employee of the National Park Service.

Two New Books Released By War Commission

The Virginia Civil War Commission announced today the publication of two new books, each of which a spokesman said would fill a need among students and Civil War buffs.

One is a 348-page compilation of every known Virginia military unit of the Civil War period. It is entitled "A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations 1861-1865" and was compiled for the Commission by Lee A. Wallace, Jr.

The other book is a 24-page story of Virginia's Secession Convention of 1861 and is entitled "Virginia's Decision". It was edited by Commission Historian Benjamin J. Hillman.

Geary said the smaller book will be distributed free among public school libraries, and is available to the public at 25c per copy.

Local 4-H Youths Crossbreed Swine For Bigger Profits

"Does crossbreeding for commercial feeder pigs really pay? V.P.I. researchers say "Crossbreeding is the most valuable system of breeding in hog production." 4-H Club members in Appomattox County also think so.

Using Hampshire - Yorkshire Cross gilts and breeding them to a purebred Duroc boar, the following have been reported: Frank Roy Raisen's gilt farrowed 13 pigs and weaned 13 pigs at 56 days of age, averaged 55 pounds. The litter was creep fed. John Howard Goin's gilt farrowed 12 pigs and weaned 11 pigs at 56 days of age averaging 49 pounds. This litter was not creep fed. Five gilts weaned 55 pigs at 56 days with an average weight of 39 pounds. The 55 pigs had a total weight of 2161 pounds at 56 days of age. These results are significant because the state average is 7.8 pigs weaned per litter averaging 36 pounds at 56 days of age.

Crossbreeding usually produces stronger pigs and frequently larger litters. A planned system of crossbreeding should be used rather than indiscriminate crossing. Crossing the best with the best produces an individual with hybrid vigor that under most conditions will excel over the straightbred.

Travel Receipts Up 15-20 Percent

Travel industry receipts are up 15 to 20 percent over any previous year in the state's history, according to S. Cooper Dawson, Jr., president of the Virginia Travel Council.

Happy Hustler Wins Wristwatch

The Happy Hustler's Community 4-H Club met on Tuesday, September 8. The meeting was called to order. We then elected new officers. They are as follows: President, Janet Harse; Vice- President, Jane McCraw; Secretary, Clara Braford; Treasurer — Perry McCraw; Reporter, Beverley Winston; Recreation Leader — Sherry McCraw.

We then talked about renaming our club from Hebron to Happy Hustlers. Sherry McCraw gave a talk on her electric project and trip to Electric Congress in Richmond. Sherry received a watch as district winner in this project.

Club leaders are Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Dyess, Mrs. Helen McCraw, and Mr. Tom Davidson.

Reporter, Beverley Winston

Pipeline Terminal Dedicated Sept. 19

Lay a ruler on a map of the eastern United States and you'll discover the airline distance between Houston, Tex., and Montvale, Va. to be on the order of 1200 miles. Though so scheduled stitiner makes the run, the two locales now are linked by another equally efficient if far less obvious mode of transportation.

The new link is Colonial Pipeline Co.'s Texas-to-New York pipeline system which crosses a section of Appomattox and neighboring counties safely and silently carries gasoline and other petroleum products from Gulf Coast refineries to consumers in the southern, mid-Atlantic and northeastern states.

Located on either side of U.S. Route 460 at Montvale, about midway between Roanoke and Bedford, is one of the three major terminals through which users of Colonial pipeline will distribute their wares to homes, industries, and motorists in Virginia and West Virginia. In partial operation since last spring, the terminal was dedicated Sept. 19 in ceremonies headed by Virginia Gov. Albertis S. Harrison, Jr.

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